

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A Method of managing incoming calls and/or messages in a communications system comprising the steps of:
 - upon receipt of a call and/or message checking if a pre-defined availability status allocated to a recipient of the call and/or message is activated;
 - upon activation of a pre-defined availability status applying a pre-defined filter rule to the call and/or message in accordance with the activated availability status; and
 - executing a call and/or message handling action associated with the activated availability status.
2. A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the availability status is selectable for activation by the recipient of the call and/or message.
3. A Method as set forth in claim 2, wherein only one availability status is activated at a time.
4. A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein any call and/or message is signalised and routed to the recipient by applying the filter rule relating to an availability status in which the recipient is prepared to receive calls and/or messages.
5. A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein only calls and/or messages originating from a pre-determined set of callers and/or senders are signalised and forwarded to the recipient by applying the filter rule.
6. A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein any call and/or message is forwarded to an other pre-defined recipient by executing the call and/or message handling action.
7. A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the call and/or message handling action comprises notifying the recipient of attempted communication by means of a message directed to a selected communication device allocated to the recipient.

8. A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the call and/or message is routed to a destination associated with an entry in a personal scheduler of the recipient.

9. An Apparatus for managing incoming calls and/or messages in a communications system comprising:

means for checking, upon receipt of a call and/or message, if a pre-defined availability status allocated to a recipient of the call and/or message is activated;

means for applying, upon activation of a pre-defined availability status, a pre-defined filter rule to the call and/or message in accordance with the activated availability status; and

means for executing a call and/or message handling action associated with the activated availability status.

10. A Computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable means for causing a computer to check, upon receipt of a call and/or message, if a pre-defined availability status allocated to a recipient of the call and/or message is activated;

computer readable means for causing the computer to apply, upon activation of a pre-defined availability status, a pre-defined filter rule to the call and/or message in accordance with the activated availability status; and

computer readable means for causing the computer to execute a call and/or message handling action associated with the activated availability status.